

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing access to resources, comprising:

exchanging encryption keys among a first entity, second entity, third entity, and a fourth entity, wherein each entity has one relationship with one other entity, and wherein the encryption keys are exchanged pursuant to the relationships; and

encrypting with the encryption keys electronic messages concerning digital enrollments to provide to the first entity, wherein the digital enrollment is associated with at least one digital ticket that authorizes access to a resource managed by the fourth entity, wherein presentation of the digital enrollment causes the presentation of one digital ticket associated with the digital enrollment to authorize the first entity to access the resource and wherein the first entity and the second entity have a first relationship such that the first entity is associated with the second entity and wherein the second entity and third entity have a second relationship through which entities associated with the second entity can access resources managed by the fourth entity.

2-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A system for managing access to resources, comprising:

means for exchanging encryption keys among a first entity, second entity, third entity, and a fourth entity, wherein each entity has one relationship with one other entity, and wherein the encryption keys are exchanged pursuant to the relationships; and

means for encrypting with the encryption keys electronic messages concerning digital enrollments to provide to the first entity, wherein the digital enrollment is associated with at least one digital ticket that authorizes access to a resource managed by the fourth entity, wherein presentation of the digital enrollment causes the presentation of one digital ticket associated with the digital enrollment to authorize the first entity to access the resource and wherein the first entity and the second entity have a first relationship such that the first entity is associated with the second entity and wherein the second entity and third entity have a second relationship through which entities associated with the second entity can access resources managed by the fourth entity.

13-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a machine-readable medium tangibly embodying program including code thereon to be executed by a first entity, second entity, third entity, and fourth entity to manage access to a resource, the code comprising:

code executed by the first, second, third, and fourth entities to receive encryption keys of all the other entities wherein each entity has one relationship with one other entity, and wherein the encryption keys are exchanged pursuant to the relationships; and

code executed by the first entity to receive electronic messages concerning digital enrollments encrypted with the encryption keys of at least one of the first, second, and third entities, wherein the digital enrollment is associated with at least one digital ticket that authorizes access to a resource managed by the fourth entity; wherein presentation of the digital enrollment causes the presentation of one digital ticket associated with the digital enrollment to authorize the first entity to access the resource and wherein the first entity and the second entity have a first relationship such that the first entity is associated with the second entity and wherein the second entity and third entity have a second relationship through which entities associated with the second entity can access resources managed by the fourth entity.

24-31. (Canceled)

The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' representative at the number below to expedite prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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